THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) In the on-going negotiations under the World Trade Organizations' Agreement on Agriculture various member countries are seeking the support of other member countries on proposals made by them from time to time.

Government's objective in the negotiations is to safeguard the interests of the Indian farmers by, *inter alia*, providing appropriate levels of tariff protection on imports and taking into account our food security and livelihood concerns, and through increased market access for agricultural products of export interests to us. India has been building coalitions with other member countries holding similar interests and concerns.

FDI in restricted areas

1799. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow further foreign investment in restricted areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the investments are not increasing as per the expectation; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) A Group of Ministers periodically reviews the FDI policy, including sectoral restrictions, to consider necessary changes.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In sharp contrast to the downward trend in the world FDI inflows, India received US $ 4.06 billion (excluding ADRs/GDRs) during 2001-02, as against US$ 2.46 billion received in 2000-01, registering a growth of 66%. The upward trend in FDI inflows has been sustained during the current financial year as well. The first quarter of the financial year 2002-2003 witnessed inflows of US $ 1.35 billion (net of ADRs/GDRs) representing a growth of 106% as compared to the first quarter of the previous year. As per the the recent UNCTAD report, China, Malaysia, India and Philippines have been identified as the four developing countries

in Asia which are expected to witness increased FDI inflows. Government is making continuous efforts to make India an attractive destination for FDI in the region by providing an internationally competitive investment climate in terms of policy, procedures and institutions. In order to catalyse FDI, the Government has also permitted access through the automatic route for FDI upto 100% in most activities.

Impact of WTO

1800. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are establishing regional offices to explain the impact of WTO in different parts of the country;

(b) the number of regional offices proposed to be opened by Government to collect data and interact with public on WTO;

(c) by when such offices will be functional;

(d) whether Government also have a proposal to take suggestions from the public for negotiations with WTO; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The consultations with the Stakeholders on various WTO issues is an ongoing process.

Target for FDI during Tenth Plan

1801. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to raise FDI to 7.5 billion dollars annually during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to achieve this target;

(c) the FDI inflow in the country during the last three years, sector/ service-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the details of the sectors and services currently open to FDI, would be opened shortly and those in which FDI cap is proposed to be enhanced?